

Application No. 10/716,184
Amendment Dated July 8, 2005
Reply to Final Office Action dated April 8, 2005

Remarks

Claims 1-11 are pending.

Claims 1, 10 and 11 stand rejected.

Claims 2-5 and 7-9 are objected to.

Claim 1 has been amended.

Claim 2 has been cancelled

Claims 1 and 3-11 are submitted herein for review.

No new matter has been added.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tanaka (U.S. Patent No. 5,945,019). In paragraph 4 the Examiner also rejects claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka in view of Ketchpel (U.S. Patent No. 4,255,613). In paragraph 5, the Examiner acknowledges that claims 2-5 and 7-9 would be allowable if re-written in independent form.

Although the Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's contentions regarding the rejection of claim 1 in view of the cited prior art, in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, Applicant has amended the allowable subject matter from dependent claim 2 into independent claim 1, from which the remaining claims 3-11 depend. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute un-amended claim 1 in a timely filed continuation application.

In view of the forgoing, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1 and 3-11 are in condition for allowance, the earliest possible notice of which is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner feels that an interview would facilitate the prosecution of this Application they are

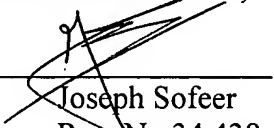
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invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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